

Documents on Diplomacy: Resources

Paideia: The Cloud for National Security: A Sampling of Ideas

Historical Notes

The newspaper of the nation's capital, the *Philadelphia Aurora*, was active in denouncing President Adams. It became one of the most vocal anti-Federalist weekly papers, mocking President Washington and John Adams. Its editor, Benjamin Franklin Bache, was Benjamin Franklin's grandson and had been raised by his grandfather in France during the Revolutionary War. Bache was arrested for his scathing comments about the government under The Sedition Act. While awaiting trial, he died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1798. Bache's widow and William Duane took over the paper, attracting the attention of the U.S. Government. He often had visits from President Adam's "rough neck supporters who busted up his press beat him in front of his family and arrested him for what he published."

Opening Questions

1. What should a country do for national security?
2. Why do you really think President Adams supported a bill designed to prohibit newspaper criticism of a President?
3. When is it acceptable for a president to suspend the Bill of Rights, especially the First Amendment?
4. With our concern about terrorist attacks on the United States, what course of action do you think our government should take?
5. How many freedoms are you willing to give up for security?

A Sampling of Ideas

- ❖ "I knew that (Benjamin Franklin) had conceived an irreconcilable hatred to me and that he had propagated and would continue to propagate prejudices if nothing worse, against me in America from one end of it to the other"
John Adams
- ❖ "I would start each day's entry with a report from the Aurora, and I would let you tremble, with Thomas Jefferson and me, at the "'rapid march of our government toward monarchy'
Duane quoting Thomas Jefferson
- ❖ "[T]hese friends of order, these enemies of disorganization, assemble a second time to pull down the printing office of the young and amiable widow of the grandson of Benjamin Franklin. On the other hand, a body of real republicans, of men who are real friends of order, assemble in arms, and . . . mounted guard to protect the office of this widow, the person of the Editor, of his journeymen, his apprentices and his son."
**Vice President Thomas Jefferson, 1799
after the Aurora was trashed.**
- ❖ "I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations."
James Madison, speech, Virginia Convention, 1788
- ❖ "It is a free press...There are laws to protect the freedom of the press's speech, but none that are worth anything to protect the people from the press." (*License of the Press* speech) and ". . .the liberty of the Press is called the Palladium of Freedom, which means, in these days, the liberty of being deceived, swindled, and humbugged by the Press and paying hugely for the deception."
Mark Twain, 1870
- ❖ "There is no more important struggle for American democracy than ensuring a diverse, independent and free media. Free Press is at the heart of that struggle."
Bill Moyers 2004

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- ❖ "The only security of all is in a free press. The force of public opinion cannot be resisted when permitted freely to be expressed. The agitation it produces must be submitted to. It is necessary, to keep the waters pure."

Thomas Jefferson to Lafayette, 1823

- ❖ "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves."

Abraham Lincoln

- ❖ "Men fight for freedom, then they begin to accumulate laws to take it away from themselves."

Author Unknown

- ❖ "No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck."

***Frederick Douglass, speech,
Civil Rights Mass Meeting, Washington, D.C., 1883***

- ❖ "The contest for ages has been to rescue liberty from the grasp of executive power."

Daniel Webster

- ❖ "A cynical, mercenary, demagogic press will produce in time a people as base as itself."

Joseph Pulitzer

- ❖ "The Patriot Act closed dangerous gaps in America's law enforcement and intelligence capabilities, gaps the terrorists exploited when they attacked us on September the 11th. . ."

George W. Bush

- ❖ "Those that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Benjamin Franklin

- ❖ "Republican leaders have had to play up the death of Osama bin Laden—and fears of retaliation by Al Qaeda following the May 1, 2011 U.S. raid that killed him—as reasons for extending the controversial legislation, arguing that American counterterrorism experts need the authority granted them under the Patriot Act in order to thwart any plots against the U.S."

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0511/54799.html#ixzz1M9Y3LAFy>